

BRENT CYCLISTS

MINUTES OF MEETING 4th AUGUST 2009

Present: Davis Arditti, , Ian Saville, Stephen Thwaites, Michelle Homden

1. Matters arising from previous minutes

Ian has been trying to contact Ride4Life group but has been unable to do so. Therefore it was felt it is unnecessary to pursue this further.

Stephen has e-mailed Brent Councillor Rob Pagnamenta again in order to set up a meeting to establish closer links with council members. However, Cllr Pagnamenta has not yet responded and we are unsure whether he is Brent Council's 'cycling champion'.

At the previous meeting it was agreed that the format of the monthly meetings would be a 'business' meeting from 18:30 which anyone can attend, followed by a general meeting from 19:30. It was felt that this format will encourage more people to attend.

David reported that the Brent 'Respect' festival was reasonably successful with similar attendance to the Gladstonbury event.

2. Forthcoming Events

Michelle reported that she has been successful in her application as marshall on 'Cycle Fridays' (formerly bike tube). These take place over eight Fridays from 14th August to 2nd October; Michelle will be marshall on the Swiss Cottage to Holborn route.

'Skyride' (formerly freewheel) will take place on 20th September. Route will start in Harrow.

3. Local Implementation Plans (LIPs)

LCC have informed us that the way cycling is funded at borough level is changing, and that under the new Borough Spending Plans (BSP), boroughs will have more freedom over how the money is spent. The boroughs have to inform TfL about their spending plans by 21st September. Action Stephen will contact Brent councillor about BSP.

4. Cycling Superhighways

David attended a presentation on 'Cycling Superhighways' by the TfL project initiation team. David pointed out that there are several changes from the previous proposals which now do not include any changes to infrastructure such as the closing off of side roads, due to budget/ time constraints. David also noted that the presentation said that ' the boroughs are king' but that Barnet for example was opposed to the proposals.

David felt that as a group we should not support the cycling superhighways proposals as it would be a waste of time if the boroughs were against it, and the proposals are substandard and would encourage novice riders onto busy main roads.

5. Workshop

Meeting was followed by a 'drop in' cycle maintenance workshop. Two novice cyclists and several members were given mechanical assistance and advice.